

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 30 1975**
DATE ENTERED **JAN 1 1976**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

HOBOKEN CITY HALL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

86-98 Washington Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hoboken

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourteenth

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Hudson

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mayor and City Council of the City of Hoboken, New Jersey

STREET & NUMBER

86-98 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hoboken

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Hudson County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

595 Newark Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Jersey City

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #1480.12

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

P.O. Box 1420 Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey 08625

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hoboken City Hall occupies a square block in the heart of downtown Hoboken, fronting on Washington Street. The present building incorporates two phases of construction, the first completed in 1883, the second in 1911.

City Hall of 1883, was designed by Francis George Himpler in Second Empire Style. Its facade is ultimately based on Haussman's redesign of the Tuileries. Two full stories surmounted a high basement, the whole topped by a mansard roof enclosing usable garret space. The facade was divided into five bays. A central pavilion, marked by an arched doorway and window crowned with broken segmental pediments, and culminating in a low mansarded clock tower, was set slightly forward from the main block of the building. At either end were two pavilions each the width of one window. Shallowly recessed between the central and end pavilions were two bays, each three windows in width. These elements were set off from one another by rusticated quoins.

Materials were somber. The basement was of rock-faced ashlar; the upper stories of brick with brownstone trim. Heavy molded brownstone belt courses defined the stories, which were also differentiated by window trim, triangular pediments on the first floor, segmental on the second. The mansard was pierced by rondels with triangular peaks, in the end pavilions, which bore rectangular, pedimented windows.

Behind this facade, the plan was U-shaped, with wings enclosing a courtyard extending to the rear. These wings are still visible, with the lower walls, virtually unaltered, divided into three bays by the device of recessing the central section the thickness of one brick. The decorative detailing of the facade is continued on the first bay; the other two bays and the rear of these wings have simple flat belt courses and plain Italianate window trim. Each of the side facades was pierced by a pedimented door in the rear bay. That on the north side still bears the partially effaced inscription "Police and Records Court."

The building of 1911 left the major portions of the 1883 building intact as the core of the new construction. The central doorway and window above remain intact, as does one window of the original building in both stories, on either side of the entrance. This section of the old building was, however, faced with cream-color brick to match the new construction. The major elements of the later are two, two-story, square projecting bays on either side of the entrance; a two-story jail in the courtyard between the arms of the "U"; and conversion of the mansard to a full third story. All of these are executed in cream-color brick with brownstone trim.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **1883, 1911** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Francis George Himpler**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Every city and town through the United States contains, at least, one important public building which conducts the official business of its city. In Hoboken, that building is City Hall, located at 86-98 Washington Street.

The village of Hoboken grew slow until, 1784, when Colonel John Stevens founder of Hoboken, bought the property for \$90,000. On March 28, 1855. Hoboken was incorporated as a City. By that time the City's political, industrial, commercial and residential growth was substantial and required a City Hall capable of housing the governmental activities.

The land on which the building now stands originally was a Market Place, where people were often found trading rare foreign commodities. Prior to its completion in 1881, official city business was conducted at the old Morton House, 209 Washington Street.

City Hall's significance appears in three major areas: Architecture, Military and Political.

In the area of architecture, City Hall is important because of its monumental facade with classical detailing, typical of civic architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The architect, Francis G. Himpler, was noted for church architecture but also designed many other buildings. He was especially successful in planning the acoustic properties of large structures, invented an improved wooden partition preventing cracks in ceilings and walls. He never worked from blueprints or typed specifications. He also designed Public School Number 4 in Hoboken and Our Lady of Grace Church and Academy of the Sacred Heart Church also in Hoboken.

In the area of military significance, the City Hall had facilities for an armory which was housed on the top floor of the building. During World War I, Hoboken was the major port of embarkation for troops sailing for Europe. The City's Police Department, headquartered in City Hall, were called upon to join with the military police in controlling the thousands of soldiers and sailors who passed through Hoboken. On at least one occassion, some 300 to 400 sailors besieged City Hall in an attempt to free two to three of their number, who had been arrested for loitering.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cunningham, Lucille, History of Hoboken, the Miracle Mile, Hoboken Public Library (1974)

Evening News of Hoboken (1893)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 581750 45091820
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Minor Revisions)
 Nanci Kostrub - Historic Sites
 Office Dept. of Env. Protection

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Billis, Assistant Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Municipal Operations Program, Community Development Agency

STREET & NUMBER

84 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN

Hoboken

DATE

201-792-6700

STATE

New Jersey

TELEPHONE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David J. Bruck

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

August 13, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Brunk

DATE

11/1/76

DATE

12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acty

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 30 1975

DATE ENTERED

1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The new facade, like the old, stresses the central entrance. The old doorway is screened by a portico linking the two new wings. Paired Ionic columns carry an Italianate balustrade. Window openings are wide rectangles, those on the first floor ornamented with simple entablatures carried on consoles. The wings, flat-roofed, are surmounted by a copper modillion cornice and balustrades alternating brick piers with run of brownstone balusters. The new third floor is also flat-roofed with a strong metal cornice. The central window is framed by a paired brick and brownstone pilasters surmounted by a copper open pediment framing a decorative carouche. Above, two brownstone pedestals bearing gilded eagles flank a brownstone cresting. The roof corners are marked by brick parapets. The total effect transforms what was a Second Empire building to the forms and spirit of Beaux Arts Classicism.

In front of the building a small lawn, fenced, but linked with benches, serves as a gathering place for Hoboken's citizens. The space is further adorned by three (the fourth is missing) street lamps. These are in the form of Roman Doric columns, from which spring ornamental scrolls to hold the light fixtures. They were cast by the architectural metalworking firm of J.W. Fiske.

The added third story, finished off with a parapet continues at the same height on two bays of the wings. The third story of the rear bay is lower, with a balustrade similar to that on the additions to the facade. At the rear of the building, the addition housing the jail is a simple two-story cube with a hip roof, masked along the street elevation by a steeped parapet bearing a date stone inscribed "1911."

The major interior spaces appear to be those created in the 1883 building. Access is through a two-bay, groin-vaulted entry, leading to a transverse groin-vaulted hall which runs the full width of the building. Floors are of gray Minton tile with a foliated border. All openings into the jails have heavily molded wooden architraves and pediment. Other major interior spaces on the first floor include the courtroom, with trim similar to that in the hall, and, in the new wings, the County Clerk's and Tax Collector's Offices, each with handsome carved wooden counters.

Access to the second floor is through a rear stair hall with a offset open-well stair. The newel post, of cast iron, supports a lighting fixture in the form of an Ionic column. The stairrail is of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	JAN 1 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

cast and wrought iron. This stairway gives access to a wide hall which repeats the proportions of that on the first floor. Again all openings are framed in heavy wooden trim, but entablatures on consoles replace the pediments of the first floor. Like all major interior spaces in the building, with the exceptions of the main hall on the first floor, the second floor hallway has a coffered pressed metal ceiling, with deep cove cornices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	JAN 1 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Politically, City Hall is the center of all of Hoboken's political life. Municipal offices have continually been housed there since 1883. The building is in constant use because of the Tax Collector's Office and the Police Department on the ground level. In the early twentieth century, many major political receptions were held right on the steps of the building; one example being, the traditional New Year's reception in 1906 when George Steil became Mayor.

City Hall has been the center of all Hoboken's political life for over 92 years. The architecture is unique due to the creativeness of Himpler and his unusual style of designing. The building has military significance in that it stands ready as an armory to house ammunition for defense purposes. Most of the major decisions concerning the workings of the city are carried on in this building and plans for the continual development are discussed and executed within these walls.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1975
	JAN 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Hoboken, New Jersey 1855-1955: Hoboken's One Hundredth Anniversary

Hoboken Observer, December 18, 1918

History of Municipalities of Hudson County, Daniel Van Winkel, ed.,
Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924.

National Cyclopedia of American Biographies, Volume 18, Ann Arbor,
Michigan: University Microfilms, 1967 (New York: James T. White
Company, 1922), page 43

Withey, Henry F. A.I.A. and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical
Dictionary of American Architects (deceased), Los Angeles:
Hennessey and Ingalls Inc., 1970, page 115